OPINION 1140
SESARMA RUBRIPES RATHBUN, 1897 (CRUSTACEA DECAPODA) GIVEN PRECEDENCE OVER *SESARMA TRAPEZIUM* DANA, 1852, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING – (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that the specific name *rubripes* Rathbun, 1897, as published in the binomen *Sesarma rubripes,* is to be given precedence over the specific name *trapezium* Dana, 1852, as published in the binomen *Sesarma trapezium* whenever those two names are regarded as synonyms.

(2) The specific name *rubripes* Rathbun, 1897, as published in the binomen *Sesarma rubripes,* is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with an endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the specific name *trapezium* Dana, 1852, as published in the binomen *Sesarma trapezium,* whenever those two names are regarded as synonyms (Name Number 2689).

(3) The specific name *trapezium* Dana, 1852, as published in the binomen *Sesarma trapezium,* is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the specific name *rubripes* Rathbun, 1897, as published in the binomen *Sesarma rubripes,* whenever those two names are regarded as synonyms (Name Number 2690).

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 2016

An application for the suppression under the plenary powers of *Sesarma trapezium* Dana, 1852, was first received from Dr Lawrence G. Abele (then of the *School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Miami, Florida 33149)* on 24 July 1972. In correspondence, the applicant stated that Dana's name had been cited in only three works other than mere lists of names, whereas its junior synonym, *Sesarma rubripes* Rathbun, 1897, had been cited in connexion with specimens on seven occasions. The application was sent to the printer on 14 January 1974 and published on 31 July 1974 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31: 49–50. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials and to a crustacean serial. No comment was received.

In November 1977 the Secretary proposed to the applicant the use of the "relative precedence" procedure in this case, and the applicant concurred.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 5 September 1978 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1978)21 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 31: 50, but in terms of the "relative precedence" procedure. At the close of the voting period on 5 December 1978 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes – fifteen (15), received in the following order: Holthuis, Melville, Alvarado, Mroczkowski, Eisenmann, Vokes, Brinck, Willink, Tortonese, Binder, Corliss, Habe, Nye, Welch, Bernardi

Negative Votes – three (3): Cogger, Bayer, Dupuis.

Ride and Sabrosky were on leave of absence. No votes were returned by Heppell, Kraus and Starobogatov.

The following comments were sent in by members with their voting papers:

Cogger: "Although the applicant states that '. . . the species *Metasesarma trapezium* has been mentioned by seven authors in eight different works . . .' he neither cites these references nor indicates the nature of their significance. On the other hand, the number of references cited for *M. rubripes* is only seven. I believe, therefore, that the case for suppression is inadequate and accordingly vote against the proposal."

Bayer: "I have been informed by a senior specialist in Decapod Crustacea that the quality of Dana's illustrations (1852) is insufficient to permit any reliable decision about the identity of *S. trapezium* and *M. rubripes.* The other evidence is purely circumstantial, so *S. trapezium* can be considered no more than a *species inquirenda,* not a senior synonym of *M. rubripes.* Moreover, the species involved are of little concern outside of the taxonomic field, so no great body of general usage is threatened even if *S. trapezium* should eventually prove to be a senior synonym of *M. rubripes.*"

Bernardi: "Je vote 'pour' parce que le type de *trapezium* est perdu et la localité-type inexacte."

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

rubripes, Sesarma, Rathbun, 1897, *Proc. biol. Soc. Washington,* vol. 11: 89–92

trapezium, Sesarma, Dana, 1852, Crustacea, *in U.S. Exploring Expedition under the command of Charles Wilkes, U.S.N.,* vol. 13 (1): 354

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P. (78)21 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1140.

R.V. MELVILLE
Secretary
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
London
30 March 1979